SPOIL SPREADING

(Acre)
Code 572

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Practice Standard

I. Definition

Disposing of surplus excavated materials.

II. Purposes

To permit use of land occupied by spoil for agriculture and other purposes, to facilitate establishing and controlling vegetation along banks, to provide a travelway along banks for use and maintenance, to provide borrow for land grading, leveling, or smoothing, or to improve landscape quality.

III. Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes.

IV. Federal, State, and Local Laws

Users of this standard should be aware of potentially applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, or permit requirements governing spoil spreading. This standard does not contain the text of federal, state, or local laws.

V. Criteria

The following criteria apply to all purposes.

A. General Criteria

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or as modified by a technician at the site where authorized in the contract or otherwise feasible.

Location and placement of spoil shall be such as to avoid unnecessary destruction of riparian vegetation.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices and shall be shaped to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape.

Excessively rocky, infertile, or otherwise unproductive spoil material shall not be spread directly on crop production areas. The topsoil from the productive area shall be stripped and stockpiled prior to spoil spreading and reapplied following spoil spreading operations.

B. Placement Adjacent to Channels

For spoil spreading along channels or ditches, surfaces of spoil shall not be steeper than 4:1 (4 horizontal to 1 vertical) on the landside and 3:1 on the channel side if a berm is established between the edge of the channel and the spoil. The berm width shall be a minimum of 8 feet. If the spoil is spread to the edge of the channel, the channel side slope of the spoil shall be shaped to join the side slope of the ditch bank so that loose spoil will not roll or wash into the channel or ditch.

The spoil shall be placed so as not to endanger the stability of the ditch bank and shall not exceed 3 feet in height above the natural ground surface, except by special design. The finished surface shall slope away from the edge of the channel or berm as feasible.

Provisions shall be made for the diversion or safe passage of surface water concentrating on the landside of the spoilbanks along channels or ditches, or canals.

Sod chutes, rock chutes, corrugated metal pipes, drop spillways, or other means shall be used to lower surface water concentrating on the landside of spoilbanks into the ditch.

C. Establishment of Vegetation

All spoil areas not used for cropland shall be seeded in accordance with NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Standard 342, Critical Area Planting.

VI. Considerations

Additional recommendations relating to design which may enhance the use of, or avoid problems with, this practice, but are not required to ensure its basic conservation function are as follows:

A. Effects on the water budget, especially on runoff, infiltration, deep percolation, and groundwater recharge.

B. Effects of spoil placement on erosion and sediment delivery.

C. The potential effect of dissolved substances, including toxics from the spoil, to enter surface or groundwater.

D. Effects on the visual quality of landscape or water resources.

E. Effects on fish and wildlife habitat.

F. Effects on adjacent wetlands.

G. Consideration should be given to using spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, and other uses.

VII. Plans and Specifications

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for properly applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

VIII. Operation and Maintenance

An Operation and Maintenance Plan shall be developed that is consistent with the purpose of this practice, intended life of the components, and criteria for design.

IX. References

USDA, NRCS, Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications.